

## Did you know...



Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they actually learn to read and write. Helping your child develop early literacy skills will build a foundation for reading so that when they are taught to read they are ready.

This monthly newsletter will help you become more familiar with early literacy skills and contains tips and activities you can try at home with your child. *The Bookworm* is published monthly for three age groups: Babies and Toddlers, Preschool (3-5), and Kindergarten. You can find more *Bookworms*, as well as versions in Spanish, at

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bookworm>.

## Here's how...

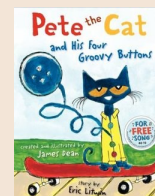


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.
- ✦ Show your child how you read every day for fun and work (novels, newspapers, magazines, etc.).
- ✦ Visit the library or bookstore with your child to attend storytimes and choose books to read at home.

## Read



### ***Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons*, by Eric Litwin, illustrated by James Dean**



Pete the cat loves the buttons on his shirt so much that he makes up a song about them, and even as the buttons pop off, one by one, he still finds a reason to sing.

Mr. Eric is an award-winning author and musician. Hear Mr. Eric sing Pete's song at

[www.thelearninggroove.com](http://www.thelearninggroove.com)

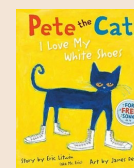
Go to the **Lyrics and Activities** tab, then to **Search by Song Title**

## Choosing Books

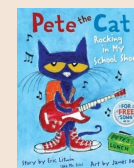


### **Look for other *Pete the Cat* books at your library:**

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* is where we first meet Pete, groovin' along and singing his song, even when his beloved white shoes turn a rainbow of colors.



*Pete the Cat: Rockin' in My School Shoes*: Pete discovers the library, the lunchroom, and lots of other cool places at school. And no matter where he goes, Pete moves and grooves and sings his song.



*Pete the Cat Saves Christmas*: Pete proves that giving your all in the spirit of Christmas is the totally groovy thing to do.



## Talk



Encourage your child to be active with this story. When you come to, “*Did Pete cry?*” each time, let your child respond with the “*Goodness, no!*” line. The more you read the story together, the more lines your child will want to “read” on her own. Then she’ll be reading the story to you!

## Write



In order to hold and control a pencil, young children must develop the tiny muscles in their fingers. Set out a collection of buttons and a cupcake pan or ice cube tray and help your child sort the buttons by color. Pinching and picking up small objects develops the fine motor skills needed for writing. If your child is good at picking the buttons up with her fingers, challenge her to pick them up with tweezers.

## Sing



### Five Little Monkeys

*(Sing songs that help your child count up or back)*

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed,  
One fell off and bumped his head.  
Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said,  
“No more monkeys jumping on the bed!”

Four little monkeys jumping on the bed...  
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed...  
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed...  
One little monkey jumping on the bed...

No little monkeys jumping on the bed,  
None fell off and bumped their head.  
Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said,  
“Put those monkeys back to bed!”



Hear Mr. Eric and Mr. Michael sing this song at  
[www.thelearninggroove.com](http://www.thelearninggroove.com)

## Play



Sorting a collection of buttons is an excellent way to begin looking at how objects are “alike” and “different.” Choose a button from your collection. Ask your child, “Can you find a button that is the same (size, shape, color, number of holes, etc.) as mine?” Then let your child see if they can make two piles of buttons, with each pile being “alike” in some way. Ice cube trays or cupcake pans work well for this activity.



## At your library...



Your library offers many free resources to help you build your child’s early literacy skills: age-appropriate books, music CDs, storytimes, parent workshops, booklists, take-home information, and events for the whole family!